What is claimed is:

1.   An information processing apparatus comprising:

a storage section storing tone reproducing digital data including information indicative of notes to be sounded and tone generating time lengths of the notes;

a readout section that, in response to a readout instruction, reads out the tone reproducing digital data from said storage section;

a note extraction section that extracts, from among the tone reproducing digital data read out by said readout section, notes meeting a predetermined condition;

a data change section that changes the information indicative of the tone generating time lengths of the notes extracted by said note extraction section, to thereby perform a quantizing process on the notes; and

an output section that reproduces or outputs, to external equipment, the tone reproducing digital data having been changed by said data change section.

2.   An information processing apparatus comprising:

a storage section storing tone reproducing digital data including information indicative of notes to be sounded and a tone color of the notes;

a readout section that, in response to a readout instruction, reads out the tone reproducing digital data from said storage section;

a note extraction section that extracts, from among the tone reproducing digital data read out by said readout section, notes

meeting a predetermined condition;

a data change section that changes the information indicative of the tone color of the notes extracted by said note extraction section; and

an output section that reproduces or outputs, to external equipment, the tone reproducing digital data having been changed by said data change section.

3.   An information processing apparatus comprising:

a storage section storing tone reproducing digital data including information indicative of tone generating intensity levels and tone generating time lengths of notes to be sounded;

a readout section that, in response to a readout instruction, reads out the tone reproducing digital data from said storage section;

a note extraction section that extracts, from among the tone reproducing digital data read out by said readout section, notes meeting a predetermined condition regarding either or both of the tone generating intensity level and tone generating time length;

a data change section that deletes the notes extracted by said note extraction section; and

an output section that reproduces or outputs, to external equipment, the tone reproducing digital data having the extracted notes deleted therefrom by said data change section.

4.   An information processing apparatus comprising:

a storage section storing tone reproducing digital data including information indicative of tone generating intensity levels and tone

generating time lengths of notes to be sounded;

a readout section that, in response to a readout instruction, reads out the tone reproducing digital data from said storage section;

a data change section that changes the tone reproducing digital data read out from said storage section, by adding new tone generating events to the digital data on the basis of a predetermined algorithm; and

an output section that reproduces or outputs, to external equipment, the tone reproducing digital data having the new tone generating events added thereto by said data change section.

5. An information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 which further comprises:

a counter section that counts a number of times the tone generating digital data are read out from said storage section, and

a determination section that, on the basis of the number of times counted by said counter section, determines whether or not a change process should be performed on the read-out tone reproducing digital data.

6. An information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 which further comprises:

a payment information storage section that stores payment information indicative of payment made by a user for a necessary charge; and

a determination section that, on the basis of the payment information stored in said payment information storage section,

determines degree of a change to be made by said data change section to the tone reproducing digital data.

7.   An information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 which further comprises:

a history information storage section that stores change history information including information indicative of contents of a change made by said data change section to the tone reproducing digital data; and

a restoration section that, on the basis of the change history information stored in said history information storage section, restores the tone reproducing digital data, changed by said data change section, to original tone reproducing digital data.

8.   An information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 which further comprises:

a history addition section that adds, to the tone reproducing digital data, change history information including information indicative of contents of a change made by said data change section to the tone reproducing digital data; and

a restoration section that, on the basis of the change history information included in the tone reproducing digital data, restores the tone reproducing digital data, changed by said data change section, to original tone reproducing digital data.

9.   An information processing method comprising:

a storage step of storing tone reproducing digital data including

information indicative of notes to be sounded and tone generating time lengths of the notes;

a readout step of, in response to a readout instruction, reading out the tone reproducing digital data stored by said storage step;

a note extraction step of extracting, from among the tone reproducing digital data read out by said readout step, notes meeting a predetermined condition;

a data change step of changing the information indicative of the tone generating time lengths of the notes extracted by said note extraction step, to thereby perform a quantizing process on the notes; and

an output step of reproducing or outputting, to external equipment, the tone reproducing digital data having been changed by said data change step.

10.   An information processing method comprising:

a storage step of storing tone reproducing digital data including information indicative of notes to be sounded and a tone color of the notes;

a readout step of, in response to a readout instruction, reading out the tone reproducing digital data stored by said storage step;

a note extraction step of extracting, from among the tone reproducing digital data read out by said readout step, notes meeting a predetermined condition;

a data change step of changing the information indicative of the tone color of the notes extracted by said note extraction step; and

an output step of reproducing or outputting, to external

equipment, the tone reproducing digital data having been changed by said data change step.

11.   An information processing method comprising:

a storage step of storing tone reproducing digital data including information indicative of tone generating intensity levels and tone generating time lengths of notes to be sounded;

a readout step of, in response to a readout instruction, reading out the tone reproducing digital data stored by said storage step;

a note extraction step of extracting, from among the tone reproducing digital data read out by said readout step, notes meeting a predetermined condition regarding either or both of the tone generating intensity level and tone generating time length;

a data change step of deleting the notes extracted by said note extraction step; and

an output step of reproducing or outputting, to external equipment, the tone reproducing digital data having the extracted notes deleted therefrom by said data change step.

12.   An information processing method comprising:

a storage step of storing tone reproducing digital data including information indicative of tone generating intensity levels and tone generating time lengths of notes to be sounded;

a readout step of, in response to a readout instruction, reading out the tone reproducing digital data stored by said storage step;

a data change step of changing the tone reproducing digital data read out by said readout step, by adding new tone generating

events to the digital data on the basis of a predetermined algorithm; and

an output step of reproducing or outputting, to external equipment, the tone reproducing digital data having the new tone generating events added thereto by said data change step.

13. A program containing a group of instructions for causing a computer to perform an information processing method comprising:

a storage step of storing tone reproducing digital data including information indicative of notes to be sounded and tone generating time lengths of the notes;

a readout step of, in response to a readout instruction, reading out the tone reproducing digital data stored by said storage step;

a note extraction step of extracting, from among the tone reproducing digital data read out by said readout step, notes meeting a predetermined condition;

a data change step of changing the information indicative of the tone generating time lengths of the notes extracted by said note extraction step, to thereby perform a quantizing process on the notes; and

an output step of reproducing or outputting, to external equipment, the tone reproducing digital data having been changed by said data change step.

14. A program containing a group of instructions for causing a computer to perform an information processing method comprising:

a storage step of storing tone reproducing digital data including

information indicative of notes to be sounded and a tone color of the notes;

a readout step of, in response to a readout instruction, reading out the tone reproducing digital data stored by said storage step;

a note extraction step of extracting, from among the tone reproducing digital data read out by said readout step, notes meeting a predetermined condition;

a data change step of changing the information indicative of the tone color of the notes extracted by said note extraction step; and

an output step of reproducing or outputting, to external equipment, the tone reproducing digital data having been changed by said data change step.

15. A program containing a group of instructions for causing a computer to perform an information processing method comprising:

a storage step of storing tone reproducing digital data including information indicative of tone generating intensity levels and tone generating time lengths of notes to be sounded;

a readout step of, in response to a readout instruction, reading out the tone reproducing digital data stored by said storage step;

a note extraction step of extracting, from among the tone reproducing digital data read out by said readout step, notes meeting a predetermined condition regarding either or both of the tone generating intensity level and tone generating time length;

a data change step of deleting the notes extracted by said note extraction step; and

an output step of reproducing or outputting, to external

equipment, the tone reproducing digital data having the extracted notes deleted therefrom by said data change step.

16.   A program containing a group of instructions for causing a computer to perform an information processing method comprising:

a storage step of storing tone reproducing digital data including information indicative of tone generating intensity levels and tone generating time lengths of notes to be sounded;

a readout step of, in response to a readout instruction, reading out the tone reproducing digital data stored by said storage step;

a data change step of changing the tone reproducing digital data read out by said readout step, by adding new tone generating events to the digital data on the basis of a predetermined algorithm; and

an output step of reproducing or outputting, to external equipment, the tone reproducing digital data having the new tone generating events added thereto by said data change step.

17.   An information processing method for use in an information communication network including a server of a data provider and a user terminal that receives tone reproducing digital data from said server, wherein said server performs:

a step of prestoring payment information indicative of payment to be made by said user terminal for tone reproducing digital data;

a step of receiving, from said user terminal, a request for supply of tone reproducing digital data;

a step of reading out the tone reproducing digital data

designated by the request for supply received by said step of receiving;

a step of, on the basis of the payment information of the tone reproducing digital data read out by said step of reading out, determining whether or not a change process should be performed on the read-out tone reproducing digital data;

a step of, when it is determined that the change process should be performed, performing the change process on the read-out tone reproducing digital data, and outputting the tone reproducing digital data having been subjected to the change process; and

a step of transmitting the outputted tone reproducing digital data.

18.   An information processing method for use in an information communication network including a server of a data provider and a user terminal that receives tone reproducing digital data from said server, wherein said server performs:

a step of prestoring payment information indicative of payment to be made by said user terminal for tone reproducing digital data and storing readout restriction information corresponding to the payment information;

a step of receiving, from said user terminal, a request for supply of tone reproducing digital data;

a step of reading out the tone reproducing digital data designated by the request for supply received by said step of receiving;

a step of adding, to the tone reproducing digital data read out

by said step of reading out, the readout restriction information corresponding to the payment information of the read-out tone reproducing digital data;

a step of outputting the read-out tone reproducing digital data; and

a step of transmitting the outputted tone reproducing digital data to said user terminal,

said user terminal performs:

a step of receiving the tone reproducing digital data transmitted by said server;

a step of storing the tone reproducing digital data received by said step of receiving;

a step of detecting a request made by a user for readout of tone reproducing digital data;

a step of reading out the tone reproducing digital data designated by the request detected by said step of detecting;

a step of, on the basis of the readout restriction information of the tone reproducing digital data read out by said step of reading out, determining whether or not a change process should be performed on the read-out tone reproducing digital data; and

a step of, when it is determined that the change process should be performed, performing the change process on the read-out tone reproducing digital data, and outputting the tone reproducing digital data having been subjected to the change process.